GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3019
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
UPGRADATION OF MIG
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some contracts were concluded in March 1996 with foreign manufacturers relating to MIG upgradation programme and the contract explicitly stipulated that the equipment to be delivered by the manufacturer would be of new, unused and of current production;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether the manufacturer supplied 2000 weapons worth Rs. 7.06 crore in December 1998 which were of 11 years old which was against the contract clause of the equipment;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the equipment was received by Air Force without inspection and the payment was made to the manufacturer;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken in the matter; and

(g) the time by which the ageing MIG Bis would be upgraded to minimise the high accident risk?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The contract for upgradation of MiG-21 Bis aircraft was concluded in March 1996, with a foreign manufacturer.This contract explicitly stated that the equipment to be delivered would be new, unused and of current production.

(c) A certain number of armament items manufactured in May 1996 were supplied with propellant manufactured in 1988.

(d) The manufacturer has been asked to replace the items. The payment for these items has been withheld.

(e) & (f): There was no provision in the contract for inspection of the equipment before delivery. The rockets were inspected after they were received. When found that old equipment was supplied, payment has been withheld and the manufacturer has been asked to replace the items.

(g) The issue of ageing of the aircraft is not directly linked to accidents. The upgradation of the Bis aircraft is expected to be completed by the financial year 2004-2005.